

Lee Fendall and the Growing Garden

How the garden began its incredible growth.

When it comes to the Lee Fendall House and Garden, it's almost impossible not to mention the new and revitalized grounds surrounding the historic house museum. But what is the story of the revitalization of the backyard and surrounding landscape?

We sat down and spoke with several board members and staff to see what has led to the amazing transformation that has become a source of beauty and a respite from the lock down in this hidden gem in Old Town.

"This is really a culmination of several years of work to restore and improve the garden for purposes of education, recreation, and conservation," said Amanda Roper, Manager of Interpretation at Lee Fendall House Museum & Garden. "[The staff and volunteers] have been able to lead educational programs for students using our restored herb garden which highlights plants that would have been found in historic herb gardens."

Roper emphasizes the need to keep the garden in line with the interpretation of plants and vegetation that have been in the area historically while also meeting contemporary needs. "Our pollinator garden and bird feeders were installed as part of our larger effort to increase the use of native plants and provide urban habitat for wildlife. We became a certified wildlife habitat in 2019 through the National Wildlife Foundation!"

Board Member Roger Monthey also spoke highly of the gardening efforts and pointed out another way that the garden had developed, "I would also [like to] highlight our composting success last year." Roper agreed, saying, "We've also had a lot of success with composting as we move towards utilizing more organic and sustainable gardening practices."

But when it comes to the garden, just like the rest of the museum, the most important part is the educational and historical value it gives to the community. "Our [Historic Garden Week](#) tour on April 17 will be highlighting the history and evolution of our garden as well as recent restoration efforts," Roper said.

She continued, "April will also kick-start a three-part virtual class we are teaching for several local retirement communities on the history of urban gardens, using the Lee-Fendall garden as a case study! We will also be collaborating with the Alexandria Library this spring and summer on garden-themed programs!"

So please [join us](#) as the garden continues to grow on April 17th for [Historic Garden Week](#), and remember, if the gate on Washington St. is open, come and experience the garden for yourself. We would love to have you!

SPRING Into the New Year with Us at the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden JOIN US

Details and tickets for upcoming Lee-Fendall House events may be found at [our Eventbrite page!](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 17th - 24th – Historic Garden Week

Tour private landscapes, public gardens, and historic sites in Alexandria this spring as part of Historic Garden Week! Tickets are available online. more information can be found at www.vagardenweek.org . The Lee-Fendall Garden will be featured on the Old Town Alexandria tour.

JUNE 11 & 25 – Trivia Nights

Staff members at Carlyle House Historic Park and the Lee-Fendall House Museum combine their knowledge to create bi-weekly trivia nights throughout the summer in the beautiful Lee-Fendall gardens. With a different theme each night, test your knowledge on everything from pop culture to history. Weekly Prizes!

HOME-SCHOOL DAY

APRIL 23, GARDENS – 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 12:00 P.M., 1:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M.

Discover the history of gardens as a source of food, medicine, and recreation. Learn how herbs were used to do everything from treat diseases to flavor food. Educational activities will take place outdoors with optional house tours.

WALKING TOURS:

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 --PILLARS TO PAVERS WALKING TOUR, 10:00 AM

Since the 1960s, the City of Alexandria has seen its older buildings and spaces being restored, preserved, and reused in different ways. This walking tour explores the streets of Alexandria with stops to look at how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. Presented in partnership with the Carlyle House

***APRIL 22 & JUNE 12 – BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD: A WALKING TOUR OF CIVIL WAR ALEXANDRIA, 9:00 AM**

This walking tour tells the stories of soldiers, citizens, and enslaved people in Civil War Alexandria, including the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation.

FOCUS TOURS

***MAY 1 – BLOOD AND STRIKES: AMERICAN LABOR IN THE 20TH CENTURY, 2:00 PM**

From deadly mine explosions to wartime strikes, the history of the 20th century American labor movement is full of violence and controversy. Explore the struggle for worker's rights at the home of one of its most powerful spokesmen, John L. Lewis.

***MAY 1 & JUNE 19 – UNDER THE SAME ROOF: ENSLAVED AND FREE SERVANTS AT THE LEE-FENDALL, 2:00 PM**

Explore the Lee-Fendall House through the stories of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. This tour presents a fuller story of the many people who shaped this house over the course of its history.

***MAY 7 – HISTORIC GARDEN TOUR, 2:00 PM**

Discover the history of the Lee-Fendall garden from its eighteenth-century beginnings to the present. Learn how the use and appearance of the garden has changed over time and see recent efforts to restore the garden and create an educational space and urban wildlife habitat. This tour is led by garden volunteer and retired biologist, Roger Monthey.

**Free for museum members. Please contact the museum to make reservation.*